

Pollution Prevention Practices For Hotels & Resorts

www.deq.virginia.gov/p2/lodging



Hotels and resorts have literally dozens of opportunities to minimize their impact on the environment, just by making some simple, common-sense changes – and **almost all of them can save your facility money!!** Many facilities are already doing a lot of these, and don't even think of them as helping the environment. Take a few minutes to go through the items on this checklist and indicate any of the methods that you are already utilizing. Let us know what you are doing, and we will help you let your customers know about the good things you are already doing for the environment. They don't need to know that you're saving money at the same time!

To Join. Simply fill this out this checklist and mail/fax/email it into the Virginia DEQ at the addresses at the end of this checklist. If you are doing the core activities, then **you are “in” the Virginia Green Lodging program.** It's that easy! We will then put your name on the **Green Lodging** website, and send you a framed certificate for display at your facility summarizing your activities. Your facility will also be included on the Virginia Tourism Corporation's list (www.Virginia.org) of "environmentally-friendly" facilities.



Core Activities. These are the minimum expectations for all **Green Lodging**. We are flexible about each of these, however, so please feel free to contact us or include an explanation if for some reason you are unable to implement these.

Simply mark (X) any of the techniques that your facility uses:

___ **Optional Linen Service.** Sheets and towels are not automatically changed every day during your stay, thus decreasing usage of water, energy, and harmful detergents.

___ **Recycling.** ...or at least providing the opportunity for guests to recycle. In certain areas of the state, a comprehensive recycling program is simply not feasible. However, facilities should have a written explanation available of the recycling opportunities that they provide.

___ **Water Conservation.** The facility must have a plan for conserving water that should consider water-saving faucets, showerheads, and toilets, leak detection, and an effective landscape watering plan.

___ **Energy Conservation.** The facility must have a plan in place that encourages the replacement of lighting and equipment to energy-efficient alternatives such as compact-fluorescent lighting, LED Exit signs, lighting sensors, efficient heating and cooling, and EnergyStar/energy-efficient computers and other equipment.

___ **Green Events Package.** The facility must offer a “green” or “environmentally-friendly” package for conferences, meetings, and other events; ie, you must have be able to offer recycling and other waste minimizing elements to your “environmentally-aware” customers.

Lots of Other Great Ideas! Please tell us more about the great things you're doing. We will include these on the website. Simply mark (X) any of the techniques that apply to your facility.

Water efficiency

- ___ low flow restrictors (high pressure)
- ___ sensors – faucets, toilets
- ___ low flow toilets
- ___ dishwashers that recirculate

- __ maintenance of drips and leaks
- __ laundry – recirculating/ozone

Energy efficiency

- __ efficient HVAC – natural gas
- __ solar panels/sky lights/natural lighting design
- __ lighting
 - __ sensors
 - __ high efficiency compact fluorescents
- __ EnergyStar computers, refrigerators, etc.
- __ insulation
- __ storm windows
- __ building design
 - __ tinted windows
 - __ building orientation
- __ directional lighting (parking areas, outdoor, non-dome lights that do not cause energy-wasting light pollution)

Landscaping

- __ grey-water (using shower & sink water for irrigation or flushing toilets)
- __ Integrated Pest Management (having a plan to use only what is needed)
- __ capture/use of stormwater for irrigation
- __ minimizing impervious surfaces
- __ replacing lawns with beds
- __ organic fertilizers & efficiently timed applications
- __ buffer strips around all water bodies
- __ use of native vegetation (ex. BayScapes)
- __ abundance of indoor plants

The Room

- __ optional laundry service
- __ dispensers versus bottles of shampoo, etc.
- __ refilling of bottles
- __ glasses/mugs versus disposables
- __ efficient HVAC – individual thermostats
- __ light sensors
- __ low flow fixtures
- __ can, bottle, newspaper recycling
- __ optional free papers
- __ use citrus-based cleaners
- __ buy envi-friendly cleaners in bulk that are diluted for different applications

Meeting Rooms/Dining

- __ recycling of cans/bottles
- __ glass, silver, cloth napkins
- __ food inventory management – effective bulk purchasing
- __ less toxic cleaners; citrus-based dispensers (significant positive for staff)
- __ composting of food wastes
- __ grease recycling
- __ donation of excess food

Laundry

- __ water efficient washers – those that reuse or filter washwaters.
- __ ozone-based washers
- __ energy efficient dryers
- __ environmentally-friendly detergents – using proper amount of bleaches
- __ use of linens service providers that employ “wet” versus “dry” cleaning
- __ linen segregation – gentle cycles for lightly soiled

Boating

- __ clean boating agreements – policies about boat maintenance

- ☐ pumpouts
- ☐ fueling-spill prevention, cutoffs
- ☐ recycling
- ☐ designated boat washing
- ☐ well-maintained boats

Office

- ☐ purchase of materials w/recycled content
 - ☐ recycled content paper
 - ☐ benches/piers w/plastic lumber
 - ☐ other
- ☐ purchase of durable/well-made products w/long life
- ☐ purchase of energy-efficient equipment (TV's, refrigerators, hair-dryers, irons, and vehicles)
- ☐ policies for 2-sided copying and printing
- ☐ EnergyStar computers
- ☐ recycling paper & cans & bottles & cardboard
- ☐ extensive use of electronic documents and records
- ☐ light sensors
- ☐ purchasing from vendors and service providers with a commitment to the environment
- ☐ utilizing purchasing power to prescribe minimized packaging wastes – shrink-wrapping, excessive packaging; or to require that vendors take back packaging.
- ☐ purchase environmentally-friendly cleaners and/or buy cleaners in bulk dispensers.

Maintenance

- ☐ preventative maintenance of all vehicles and equipment
- ☐ electric or natural gas vehicles or bicycles
- ☐ fuel-efficient vehicles
- ☐ last-in/first-out inventory
- ☐ eliminating use of aerosols
- ☐ recycling of vehicle fluids
- ☐ less toxic materials
- ☐ aqueous parts cleaners
- ☐ covering, distilling, and reusing solvents
- ☐ use of latex paints
- ☐ minimizing use of HVAC/cooling tower chemicals through magnetic or ionic-flux mechanisms
- ☐ reusing cooling tower waters as much as possible
- ☐ reuse/donation of unused materials
- ☐ effective systems of storage, labeling, handling
- ☐ policy to use “dry” clean-up methods (versus using spray water)
- ☐ plug drains in maintenance shops so that spills not discharged to sewer/ stormwsewer
- ☐ recycling scrap metal – filters; & cardboard

Sustainability

- ☐ use of “sustainable” building materials:
 - ☐ carpets with recycled content and no-VOCs
 - ☐ furniture made from bamboo or other sustainable crops
 - ☐ fabrics for furniture and wall paper with no-VOC's or with recycled content or natural fibers
 - ☐ other
- ☐ reused building materials
 - ☐ vintage flooring and beams
 - ☐ stonework
 - ☐ fixtures
 - ☐ other

Green Meetings/Conferences

___inclusion of "green meetings/conferences" in marketing packages
(see fact sheet on "Environmentally-Responsible Conferences & Events")
Feel free to list any of these too:_____

OTHER Creative / Common-Sense Ideas – Let Us Know About Them!!

Please provide the following information:

Facility Name: _____

Address: _____

Website: _____

Contact Name: _____

E-Mail: _____ Phone: _____

Complete this checklist and send it to us at the address below or fax/email it.

Tom Griffin, Outreach Coordinator
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www.deq.virginia.gov/p2/lodging

Your information will be added to the **Green Lodging** website, and we will send you a framed certificate for display at your facility. You are also free to use the **Green Lodging** logo on letterhead, marketing, and other company materials.

Thank you for voluntarily committing to minimize your impact on the environment!!

